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Ms. Fanelli

Civil Rights Unit Assessment

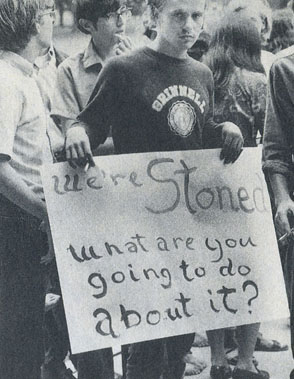
May 16, 2011

Thesis: Although, some may feel that the 60’s counter culture ideas had a negative impact on American society, due to the radical increase in drug use, the ideas of individuality and equally that countered the culture of the time in the end brought a greater positive impact on American society today.

Drug Problems in the 60s

* Time Magazine article June 29, 1970

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,878870-1,00.html>

This article demonstrates the increase in drug use over the past decade in America. Many industries have found drug use to be an increasing problem with both workers on cite and those who are seeking jobs. These issues are being seen in a wide variety of ages not just the youth, as many seem to believe this problem is limited to.

* Photo graph

A popular form of rebellion that appeared in the 60s was public drug use. As a way to promote drug use and it’s inevitably use to the government displays like the one here were come as a protest to authority.

A fight for individuality

* As in any society the media had a strong impact on the people of the 60s and ideas of individuality spread through music. One of the popular songs of the 60s was The Beatles “Come Together” (1969) who’s lyrics said: He say "I know you, you know me"   
  One thing I can tell you is you got to be free   
  Come together right now over me

Lyrics like these promoted the generations ideas of acceptance to anyone no matter who they were they could come and join a group and belong.

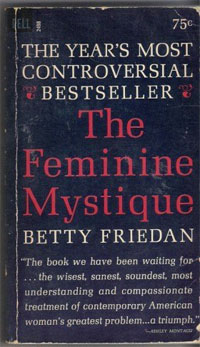
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8LZGQ4MkvQ>

* A lot of ideas of individuality also came from this generation’s reaction to war. With so many being against it, rallies and protest became popular to stand up for what you believed in and defy the government. With slogans like “make love not war” and “give peace a chance” protesters stood outside in downtown Washington and spoke of their hopes for peace in the world.

Actions towards equality

* In hopes for equality for all types of human beings gay pride became a very popular movement in the United States during the 60s. The conservative view of homosexuality was broadcasted on the CBS news station under a program called “the homosexuals” by Mike Wallace (1967)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AXAOT_swIE>

In response more rallies and parades to approve homosexuality in the United States were presented to defy the common conception of homosexuality as a sinful action but a loving and caring relationship between two similar people.

* Also a group who achieved a lot in the 60s was women. Feminist who worked for the rights of women for years were finally rewarded in 1960 when the FDA approved the public use of birth control. Finally allowing a say in their own sexual activity was a huge advancement for women. This advancement was also supported by the popular book sold during the time “The Feminine Mystique” By Betty Friedan published in 1963

The witnesses

* Betty Friedan- women’s rights activist and author of the feminine mystique would support the achievements of equality in the 60s that have made a lasting impression on American society today.
* Jimi Hendrix- popular musician who was one of the many in the media that help promote and glorify drug use and would later die from a drug overdose and show the ultimate harms of drugs.
* Allen Ginsberg- a poet and longtime resident of Greenwich Village, wrote about the violent attack on the homosexuals in Stonewall, and supported gay rights.
* Lyndon B. Johnson- President of the united states from 1963-1969, supported civil rights and passed the voting rights act of 1965 and campaigned his ideas of the great society to better America.